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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)


Applicant's or agent's file reference 1799wo-kf	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FI03/00217	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/03/2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 27/03/2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B63B29/02		
Applicant KVAERNER MASA-YARDS OY et al.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of 3 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24/07/2003	Date of completion of this report 21.05.04
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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn up on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*

☐ the international application as originally filed

☒ the description, pages 1-12, as originally filed
 pages, filed with the demand
 pages, filed with the letter of

☒ the claims, Nos. , as originally filed
 Nos. , as amended under Article 19
 Nos. , filed with the demand
 Nos. 1-12, filed with the letter of 18.02.04

☒ the drawings, sheets / fig. 1/6-6/6, as originally filed
 sheets / fig. , filed with the demand
 sheets / fig. , filed with the letter of

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:

☒ the claims, Nos. 13, 14

☐ the drawings, sheets / fig.

3. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2 (c)).

There is no support in the application documents as to the room units being installed through the end (3c).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Claims	4-12	YES
	Claims	1-3, 5	NO
Inventive Step	Claims	12	YES
	Claims	4, 6-11	NO
Industrial Applicability	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and Explanations

1. The object of independent claims 1 and 8 fully anticipated by D1 (US-A-4 779 552), which shows a system in a water-craft for providing furnishings, in which system one or more prefabricated room units (7) are arranged to be inserted into the water-craft, which water-craft comprises one or more deck constructions, provided with support structures (4), and a board (3), whereby the board (3) of the water-craft is provided with an opening or an end, and in that the room units (7) are arranged to be installed in the water-craft through the opening into predetermined positions on the deck construction so that an exterior side portion (9) of the room unit (7) forms a part of the outboard (3) of the water-craft and/or an interior side portion of the room unit (7) forms a part of the interior board surrounding an open inner section of the water-craft; (claim 1)

a method for providing furnishings in a water-craft, which water-craft comprises one or more deck constructions, provided with supporting structures (4), and a board (3), in which method one or more room units (7) are installed into the water-craft, whereby one or more room units (7) are installed on the deck construction through an opening provided in the board (3) of the water-craft, and in that the room units (7) are moved into predetermined positions on the deck construction so that the exterior side portion (9) of the room unit (9) forms a part of the outboard (3) of the water-craft and/or an interior side portion of the room unit (7) forms a part of the interior board of an open inner section of the water-craft (claim 8).

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It is to be noted that the term board and especially the term outboard has usually a different meaning, ie outboard or inboard. Therefore independent claims 1 and 8 read on the disclosure in D1.

Moreover, D2 (GB-A-2 110 603) also anticipates fully the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 8. D2 shows also the interior board and an inner section which may be designated as being open.

2. The appended claims 2, 3 and 5 are also fully anticipated by the disclosure in D1 or D2.
3. Appended claims 4 and 6-11 are concerned with obvious design features, and as such do not add any inventive subject-matter to the respective claim they are appended to.
4. There is no fair suggestion in the available prior art as to a method according to appended claim 12.

However it seems that the particular disposition of the supporting structure as shown in figures 1 and 2 is needed.

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. The expression "the board ... is provided with an opening or an end" is misleading since it is not possible to have an end between each two openings.

The last part of independent claims 1 and 8 introduced by "and/or" is concerned with an inner board, such that the above expression is even less clear in this particular context.

2. It is not clear how the units may be installed in the water-craft through an opening or an end, unless the end is also provided with an opening.

Furthermore if the units are introduced through the end, the openings in the board are not necessary.

3. The present text of claim 5 does not seem to make much sense unless the independent claim mentions the supporting structure to be situated between each second unit.

(TWICE) AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A system in a water-craft for providing furnishings, in which system one or more prefabricated room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are arranged to be inserted into
5 the water-craft (1), which water craft comprises one or more deck constructions (11), provided with support structures (14), and a board (3a,3b), characterised in that the board (3a,3b) of the water craft (1) is provided with an opening (4) or an end (3c), and in that the room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are arranged to be installed in the water-craft (1) through the opening (4) or the end
10 (3c) into predetermined positions (8a,8b,8c,8d) on the deck construction (11) so that an exterior side portion (9) of the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) forms a part of the outboard (3a) of the water-craft (1) and/or an interior side portion (10) of the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) forms a part of the interior board (3b) surrounding an open inner section (12) of the water-craft (1).

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2. A system according to claim 1, characterised in that the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) comprises one or more cabins, rooms or similar units.

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3. A system according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the exterior side portion (9) and/or the interior side portion (10) consists of a window (9a), a wall (9b) and/or a balcony (9c).

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4. A system according to claim 3, characterised in that the side portion (9a,9b,9c) is installed after the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) has been moved into the water-craft (1).

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5. A system according to claim 1, characterised in that the width of the opening (4) arranged in the board (3a,3b) is smaller than the total width of two or more room units (2a,2b,2c,2d), when the room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are being taken into the water-craft (1).

6. A system according to any one of claims 1-5, characterised in that the sealing of the room unit/units (2a,2b,2c,2d) is at least partially carried out by connecting the exterior side portion (9) or the interior side portion (10) directly to another exterior side portion (9) or another interior side portion (10) by means of separate cover strips or another sealing arrangement.

7. A system according to claim 3, characterised in that the side portion (9a, 9b) includes a floor and/or a ceiling portion (17) to be installed separately.

8. A method for providing furnishings in a water craft, which water craft (1) comprises one or more deck constructions (11), provided with supporting structures (14), and a board (3a,3b), in which method one or more room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are installed into the water craft (1), characterised in that one or more room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are installed on the deck construction (11) through an opening (4) or and end (3c) provided in the board (3a,3b) of the water craft (1), and in that the room units (2a,2b,2c,2d) are moved into predetermined positions (8a,8b,8c,8d) on the deck construction (11) so that the exterior side portion (9) of the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) forms a part of the outboard (3) of the water-craft (1) and/or an interior side portion (10) of the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) forms a part of the interior board (3b) of an open inner section (12) of the water-craft (1).

9. A method according to claim 8, characterised in that after the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) has reached the predetermined position (8a,8b,8c,8d) the exterior side portion (9) is disposed, attached and/or sealed to the outboard (3a) and/or the interior side portion (10) is disposed, attached and/or sealed to the interior board (3b).

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, characterised in that a separate side portion (9,10) is disposed, attached and/or sealed to the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) or to the board (3a,3b).

11. A method according to any one of claims 8 - 10, characterised in that the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) comprises one or more cabins, rooms or similar units and/or the side portion (9,10) comprises one or more windows (9a), walls (9b) and/or balconies (9c).

12. A method according to any one of claims 8 - 11, characterised in that the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d) is moved aboard in the transverse direction (A) of the water-craft (1) through the board (3a,3b) of the water-craft without any substantial movement in the longitudinal direction (B) of the water-craft, so that the movement in the longitudinal direction (B) is preferably smaller than the width of the room unit (2a,2b,2c,2d).

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